



PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

Pentecost May 23, 2021

*Connecting with the Community,
Growing Disciples, and Serving Jesus Christ*

*Our Worship can be viewed on our website
PantherValleyChurch.org*

FRIENDS ~ FAMILY ~ FAITH

PRELUDE

We invite you to begin your personal preparation at the beginning of the prelude.

CALL TO WORSHIP

ONE: God speaks to us

ALL: In the riches of creation

ONE: God speaks to us

ALL: In the stories of Jesus

ONE: God speaks to us

ALL: In the lives of other people

ONE: God speaks to us

ALL: In words and ways that we can understand

GATHERING PRAYER

The rhythm of breath – drawing air in, and sighing it out – pulses in all of creation, O Lord. It is a simple sign of the resurrection; of the life that cannot be quenched, even by death itself. We know what it is to breathe, Jesus, our lives depend on it even as they depend on You!

Risen, Alive and Present;

So, breathe into us again, Lord Jesus, we pray.

Breathe the life that never dies.

Breathe the hope that never despairs.

Breathe the courage that never turns back.

Breathe the joy that never stops singing.

Breathe into us, Lord Jesus, and teach us to sing, to worship, with every breath and to live the inspiration that is Your resurrection.

Amen.

HYMN

God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian

God the Spirit guide and guardian,
Windsped flame and hovering dove,
Breath of life and voice of prophets,
Sign of blessing power of love.
Give to those who lead Your people,
Fresh anointing of Your grace,
Send them forth as bold apostles,
to your church in every place.

Triune God, mysterious being,
undivided and diverse,
deeper than our minds can fathom,
greater than our creeds rehearse:
help us in our varied callings
your full image to proclaim,
that our ministries uniting
may give glory to your name.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

O God, You who are always doing a new thing, we confess that we sometimes close windows against the fresh air of new ideas, against the noise of other people's worries, against the winds of change.

God of every place and time, we confess that we often draw the curtains against people who are different, against world news or community concerns.

**Forgive us our insulation in our locked homes, our shuttered churches, the security systems on our hearts.
Open up our lives, and let your Spirit blow through. Amen.**

Silence

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

SCRIPTURE READING:

Psalms 104:24-35 New International Version

How many are your works, Lord!

In wisdom you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

There is the sea, vast and spacious,
teeming with creatures beyond number—
living things both large and small.

There the ships go to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

All creatures look to you
to give them their food at the proper time.

When you give it to them,
they gather it up;

when you open your hand,
they are satisfied with good things.
When you hide your face,
they are terrified;
when you take away their breath,
they die and return to the dust.
When you send your Spirit,
they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.
May the glory of the Lord endure forever;
may the Lord rejoice in his works—
he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,
who touches the mountains, and they smoke.
I will sing to the Lord all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.
May my meditation be pleasing to him,
as I rejoice in the Lord.
Praise the Lord, my soul.
Praise the Lord.

Acts 2:1-12 New Revised Standard Version

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?"

MESSAGE *What Does This Mean?*

Special Music *"Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness"*

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Come, Holy Spirit. Come, loving Jesus. Come, glorious God. Come among us and make holy our prayers:

We pray for the places in the world where there is poverty, fear, and war. May we hear your call to be peacemakers.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for young Christians – those who are young in years and/or those who are young in faith.

May the faith we pass on to them be a reflection of the work of your Holy Spirit in our lives.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for our church community.

May all who meet together, in our home and in our sanctuary, celebrate this Pentecost experience in your presence and be filled with power and joy.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are ill, or in trouble, or in any kind of need.

We pray for those who have died, for those who are safe in your love.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Bright God of life, burn in our lives, blow us clean and holy, warm us with courage and joy, keep us in the mystery of your glory all the days of our life. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE OFFERING

We invite you to take this time to express your gratitude to God for all that you have been given by dedicating your time, talents, witness, service, and resources. The gifts you give are helping God build the community of love in this place and in our world.

We offer several ways that you can give your fiscal pledge: in person by placing your offering in the “church mailbox” in the narthex, dropping it off at the office, by mail, through our website www.panthervalleychurch.org, or add PVEC to your online bill pay. Thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR THE PARAMENTS IN MEMORY OF ELEANOR BRAUN

We present these paraments to be consecrated to the glory of almighty God and for service in this church in loving memory of Eleanor Braun.

We accept these paraments as a sacred trust and will guard and use them reverently in the loving memory of Eleanor Braun.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit we consecrate these paraments to the glory of God in honor of God’s servant Eleanor Braun.

Most loving God, without you no words or works of ours have meaning. Accept these gifts as symbols of our devotion. Grant us your blessing, as we have consecrated this gift to your glory, that they may be an enduring witness before all your people, and that our lives may be consecrated in your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

So now we leave this space of worship and while so much of the road ahead is uncertain, the path constantly changing, we know some things that are as solid and sure as the ground beneath our feet, and the sky above our heads.

We know God is love.

We know Christ’s light endures.

We know the Holy Spirit is there, found in the space between all things, closer to us than our next breath, binding us to each other, until we meet we again, go in peace.

POSTLUDE

Credits: Today's liturgy is adapted from: Call to Worship is written by Ruth Burgess. Opening prayer is written by John van de Laar. Prayer of Confession is written by Teri on Rev. Gal Blog. Prayer of Intercession is adapted from Ruth Burgess. Benediction is written by Rev. Nora Vedress.

*Hymn: God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian, CCLI #381340, Words: 1989 Hope Publishing
Company Music: Public Domain*

*Cover artwork: Veni Sancti Spiritus by Adam Kossowski,
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/paullew/8750321716> - Fr Lawrence Lew, O.P.*

Announcements & Upcoming Events

***We are looking for volunteers to help film our worship services on Sunday morning. It is not difficult and would be so helpful if you are present anyway.**

Thank you for your Prayer Requests! Please pray for Rev. Frank Fowler and Family, The Congregation & Staff at Trinity UMC, Judy, Catherine, The Sass Family, Betty, Samantha, joy for Sherry, a cease-fire to the present Israeli–Palestinian conflict, the innocent people of Afghanistan, Israel and Columbia, the people of India, Family & Friends of Fred Senn, Family & Friends of Kristina Corriveau, Zoe's nephew Rich Pearson who had his heart transplant last weekend and for the family who lost a loved one so he may live.

Children's faith formation is being offered on Class Dojo and at PVEC on Sundays.

VBS returns this year from August 2nd- August 6th! We do need volunteers so if you would like to help in anyway, please email aewasher221@yahoo.com or call/text her at 973-459-0574 ASAP.

7 Week (biweekly) Book Group Love is the Way by Bishop Michael Curry meets next on Sunday, May 30th at 11:45 in person or via Zoom.

Rummage Sale help is needed anytime soon to pack boxes of unsold items, or to transport them by car or truck to First Presbyterian in Hackettstown, or to ReStore in Washington. After boxes are packed, they will be labeled with either destination. You can just go to Fellowship Hall, pick some up, and transport them at your convenience.

Fellowship Hour the Care and Nurture Commission is having a Welcome Back Fellowship Hour kick-off **in 2 weeks** on Sunday June 6th after church service from 11:15-12:30 in Fellowship Hall. Fellowship Hour will be held beginning June 6th and every Sunday thereafter, unless otherwise noted in the bulletin.

The Worship Commission wanted to host a picnic during Fellowship after church on Father's Day, June 20th. **UPDATE: As we haven't received responses, we assume there is no interest?**

PANTHER VALLEY ECUMENICAL CHURCH

1490 Route 517 Hackettstown, NJ 07840

~Welcome—we were built for you!~

Panther Valley Ecumenical Church is a multi-denominational church serving northwest New Jersey since 1969. We are formally affiliated with:

The Episcopal Church, The United Church of Christ,
The Presbyterian Church USA, and The United Methodist Church.

We are a congregation of many Christian traditions who worship together in accordance with Christ's prayer: "that they may all be one."

May God's Blessing go with you this week.

Pastor: Ninabeth Metcalf

Email: pvecpastor@gmail.com

Music Director: Diane Van Dongen

Church Administrator: Nikki Nicinski

Email: pvecsecretary@gmail.com

Office hours: Mon. – Fri. 9:00am – 2:00pm

Website: <http://www.panthervalleychurch.org>

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Friends • Family • Faith